

Attorney Docket No. 33809/RBC/VEJ
Attorney Matter No. 473780-00001
Application No. 10/726,390

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Hideho TANAKA

Application No. **10/726,390**

Filed: **December 1, 2003**

For: **DEVICE FOR ADJUSTING WATER
LEVEL**

Art Unit: **3751**

Examiner: **To be assigned**

Docket No.: **33809/RBC/VEJ**

Certificate of Mail (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 30, 2004.

Patricia A. Diehl

Patricia A. Diehl

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is hereby submitted in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 and pursuant to Applicant's continuing duty under 37 CFR 1.56 to bring any information which may be material to patentability of this application to the Examiner's attention. The Examiner's attention is directed to the reference(s) cited on the accompanying substitute for form PTO-1449A/PTO. Copies of the cited references are enclosed, unless otherwise noted below. It is further understood that the Examiner will also consider information that was cited or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in a prior application relied on under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Notice of April 20, 1992, 1138 OG 37-41, at 37; M.P.E.P. § 609 (I)(A)(2).

Applicant makes no representation that a search has been conducted by the Applicant, or that there is not possibly more relevant art. Applicant also makes no representation that the information submitted herewith is in fact material to patentability. The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 11 O.G. 13-25, at 25.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application, within three months of the date of entry of a national stage, before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, or before the mailing date of a first Office action after the filing date of request for continued examination. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). No fee is required.

A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:

- 1.) Japanese Application No. JP 8-500974, published 02-06-1996, is directed to a liquid level control device. *See* FIGS. 1-11 and U.S. equivalent, U.S. Patent No. 5,671,562; and
- 2.) Japanese Application No. JP 2002-345342, published 12-03-2002, is directed to a device for adjusting water level, see FIGS. 1-13 and English-language abstract attached thereto.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of the following fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extension of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Matter No. 473780-00001; Docket No. 33809/RBC/VEJ).

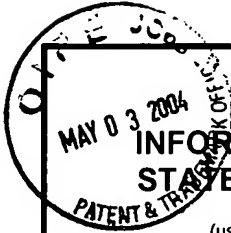
Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4/30/2004

By: 

Victor E. Johnson, Reg. No. 41,546
/for/ Robert B. Chickering, Reg. No. 24,286
Filed Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.34(a)

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 Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)			Complete if Known		
			Application Number	10/726,390	
			Filing Date	December 1, 2003	
			First Named Inventor	Hideho TANAKA	
			Group Art Unit	3751	
			Examiner Name	To be assigned	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	33809/US/RBC/VEJ

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	U.S. Patent Document Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	A1	5,671,562	09-30-1997	Fah	
	A2				
	A3				
	A4				
	A5				
	A6				
	A7				
	A8				
	A9				
	A10				

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ² Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
	A11	JP 8-500974	02-06-1996	Fah	Equivalent of US 5,671,562	
	A12	JP 2002-345342	12-03-2002	Garden Nigachi	FIGS. 1-13, English Abstract	
	A13					
	A14					
	A15					

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶
	A16		
	A17		
	A18		
	A19		
	A20		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English Language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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